

Stormwater pollution facts...

- Each day, 100 million gallons of polluted urban runoff enter the ocean untreated, leaving toxic chemicals in the surf and over 4,300 tons of trash on the beaches.
- More than 150,000 times each month, lawn and gardens throughout Los Angeles County are sprayed with pesticides that wash into the storm drains and to the ocean – untreated.
- More than 125,000 dog owners walk dogs each month and leave disease-causing animal waste lying on the ground to wash into storm drains, straight to the ocean – untreated.
- Nearly 2 million gallons of motor oil flow into the ocean each year. Just one quart of used motor oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of ocean water!
- Swimmers near storm drains in the Santa Monica Bay are 50% more likely to contract a viral or bacterial infection. (Los Angeles Times 7/29/99).
- Polluted urban runoff into Santa Monica Bay ranks among the nation's worst. (Los Angeles Times 9/6/99).

For more information:

LA County Department of Public Works
1-888-CLEAN-LA www.888CLEANLA.com

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project
213-576-6615 www.smbay.org



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STOP STORMWATER POLLUTION

What can be done for an ocean safe community





Assembly California Legislature

FRAN PAVLEY

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FORTY-FIRST DISTRICT

Dear Friends:

The spectacular Santa Monica Bay embodies more than 50 miles of coastline and 22 public beaches. It is one of the region's most important environmental and economic resources, drawing more visitors than all other California beaches combined. Tourism alone generates more than \$3 billion annually in the Los Angeles region.

The Bay is also home to more than 5,000 species of plants and animals, such as gray whales, sea lions, and brown pelicans, as well as sensitive wetlands, sand dunes, and marine habitats. It is key to the quality of life and to the quality of the environment.

A clean and healthy Bay is, therefore, a top priority. But the Bay's natural, recreational and economic resources can only be preserved through the vigilant efforts of all who live, work and play in the Bay and its surrounding communities.

This mailer has been prepared in order to inform people about the Bay and what its stewards can do to ensure that it is clean and beautiful for years to come.

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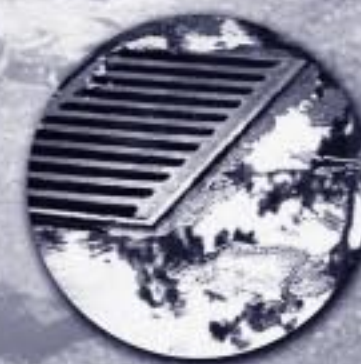
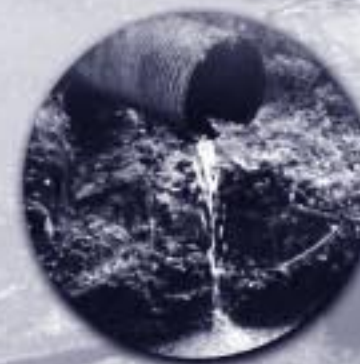
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Threats to the bay

One of the greatest threats to the health of the Santa Monica Bay is "urban runoff" or "stormwater pollution." Rain, industrial and household water mixed with urban pollutants such as oil, pet wastes, pesticides, and litter flow off city streets into stormdrains, creating a cocktail of toxins and bacteria. During heavy rains, anything deposited on the ground or poured into a gutter will flush into a storm drain and ultimately wash into the ocean.

Many people don't know that stormwater is not treated. Its raw chemicals and waste go directly into Santa Monica Bay. Some of the most scenic beaches are closed to the public after a heavy rainstorm.



Stop stormwater pollution

In the home and garden:

- Properly use, dispose of and store all hazardous household products, including cleaners, solvents and paints.
- Be an environmentally aware consumer. Buy non-toxic products for use in the home and garden whenever possible.
- Use pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers carefully and sparingly.
- Conserve water and reduce the amount of runoff by not over-watering the lawn and garden.
- Use a broom rather than a hose to clean up garden clippings, dirt and litter from sidewalks, patios and driveways.
- Compost yard trimmings and leaves. Do not sweep them into the streets or catch basins.
- Divert rainspouts and other sources of runoff onto grass or vegetation.
- Dispose of pet waste in trashcans. Leaving it on the lawn sends harmful bacteria into the storm drains whenever the lawn is watered, or when it rains.
- Donate unwanted paint, fertilizer, etc. to friends or community organizations.

Automotive care:

- When changing car fluids, use a drip pan to collect any spills.
- Wash the car with biodegradable soap using as little water as possible. Shut off the hose while washing the car and then rinse.
- Keep up car maintenance to reduce leakage of oil, anti-freeze and other fluids.
- Buy batteries, anti-freeze and motor oil from stores that will recycle used products, or take these items to a local Household Hazardous Waste roundup.